

News from Ed Markey

United States Congress

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NUCLEAR NON-AGGRESSION PACT, DOUBLING NON-NUCLEAR ELECTRICITY WOULD EASE NORTH KOREA CRISIS

Markey calls for abandonment of nuclear weapons, missiles by North Korea in comprehensive deal

WASHINGTON, D.C.- Representative Edward J. Markey (D-MA), a senior member of the House Energy and Commerce Committee and Co-Chair of the Bipartisan Congressional Task Force on Non-Proliferation, today released a letter to President Bush regarding the impending crisis with North Korea. Included in the letter is Rep. Markey's plan requiring North Korea to give up its entire nuclear program in order to receive the much-needed electricity generating capability using conventional, not nuclear fuels.

"Today we face a nuclear crisis," Rep. Markey stated. "The people of North Korea have legitimate needs, but North Korea's dictator, Kim Jong Il, has illegitimate goals. The United States needs a new relationship with North Korea; one that ends the fiction that the North Korean nuclear program was ever intended for civilian electricity generation purposes.

"The United States and its allies should be willing to sign a nuclear non-aggression pact with North Korea and also should offer to *double* the electricity generating capacity of the promised nuclear reactors, in the form of oil- and coal-fired power plants. North Korea can become a full citizen of the world only if they relinquish their nuclear programs and the U.S. and its allies provide them with electricity and other humanitarian and economic aid."

The letter suggests that:

1. The United States, North Korea and other regional allies would all sign a non-aggression agreement. The U.S. should pledge not to use its nuclear arsenal in any confrontation with North Korea. Given the overwhelming superiority of the U.S. military, such a pledge would not impact our ability to defend our citizens and our interests in the region.
2. The U.S. and our allies would provide sufficient electricity generating capacity to in fact double the generating capacity of the previously ordered nuclear power reactors, and also would upgrade the country's electrical power grid to handle the new electricity generation.
3. The U.S. and our allies would provide substantial humanitarian and economic aid to alleviate the suffering of its people.
4. The sale of nuclear reactors to North Korea should be stopped immediately because fuel that powers these plants may also be used in a nuclear weapons program;
5. The United States should immediately go to the UN Security Council to obtain a resolution: condemning North Korea's nuclear program, demanding that they open their suspected nuclear sites to unfettered inspections by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), and ordering the forfeit of all nuclear materials to the IAEA;
6. The North Koreans should immediately cease all exports of missiles and missile technology;

This and all other correspondence may be found on Rep. Markey's website at www.house.gov/markey.

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